SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR: Sir, my question is different. Is there any difference between the price at which rice is sold to the Food Corporation and the price at which it is sold to the wholesalers and the retailers?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH: Sir, we do not sell rice to the Food Corporation as such. Whatever rice is to be moved to Kerala is handed over to the Food Corporation at a fixed price. I do not think there is any difference. If the hon. Member requires a specific answer, he may put a separate question.

திரு. எம். சங்கரலிங்கம் பிள்ளை : ஒரு விவசாயி இடமிருந்து நெல்லைக் கொள்முதல் செய்யும்போது தலைக்கு 22, 24 பைசா என்று வாங்கி விலைக்கு கொடுக்கும்போது 30 ரூபாய் வரை ஆகிறது. ஆகவே வியாபாரிகளுக்கு அதிக லாபம் வருவதால், கிராமப்பகுதிகளில் நெல்லை மக்களுக்கு விநியோகிப்பதற்கு உரிய முறையை அரசாங்கம் யோசிக்குமா ?

கனம் திரு. வி. ராமய்யா : இப்போதிருக்கிற நிலையில் அரிசியாகத்தான் கொடுத்துவருகிறோம். நெல்லாகக் கொடுப்பது என்றால் அது பரிசீலிக்க வேண்டிய விஷயம்.

SRI K. S. ABDUL WAHAB: Sir, what was the targeted quantity of rice or paddy for procurement during the period in question?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH: There is no target as such. The Government are buying whatever is the marketable surplus.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN: Is there any difference between the price we pay to the Andhra Government for the rice supplied by them and the price at which we are selling rice to Kerala, and if so, what it is?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH: Sir, the prices vary according to the varieties.

Procurement of paddy.

*87 *Q.*—SRI M. SANKARALINGAM PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state whether the Government are aware of the fact that the agents appointed by the Government for the procurement of paddy are collecting 15 paise per bag on account of measurement charges from the ryots?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH: The agents appointed by the Collector for the procurement of paddy are not collecting measurement charges at 0.15 Paise per bag from the ryots, in any of the districts.

Assistant Surgeons.

*88 *Q.*—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN (on behalf of SRI V. K. Ramaswamy Mudaliar): Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Assistant Surgeons in service under the emergency provisions;